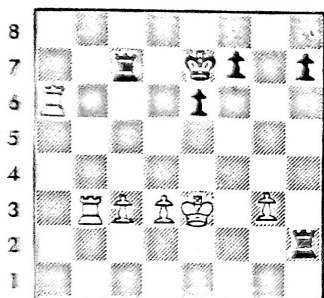


NUCA

IN
MEMORIAM
STEPHAN A. POPEL
(8/15/07 - 12/27/87)



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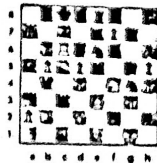
APRIL - MAY
1988

Robert J. Fischer/S. A. Popel
U. S. OPEN - 1956

NEWS



1988 ND SCHOLASTIC CHESS TOURNAMENT
APRIL 9 & APRIL 10, 1988



at the

Doublewood Ramada Inn
Bismarck, North Dakota

A 5 Round Swiss Pairing System Chess Tournament
Sponsored by the ND Chess Association & the Bismarck Optimist Club

SECTIONS

High School: Grades 10,11 & 12; Junior High: Grades 7,8 & 9;
Elementary: Grades 1 thru 6. (Players will pay withing their
respective sections unless the number of players in a section is
less than 10. Players from the same school will not play each
other unless absolutely necessary.)

PRIZES PER SECTION

1st Place Individual will receive a trophy and
a 1 year membership to USCF and NDCA

2nd Place Individual will receive a trophy and
a 1 year membership to NDCA

1st Place Team (4 players from same school all in
one section) will receive a trophy and a 1
year membership in NDCA for each team member.

ENTRY FEES

High School and Junior High: \$5.00 per player or \$16.00 per 4
player team if entered at the same time. These sections will be
nationally rated BUT USCF and NDCA memberships will NOT BE
REQUIRED.

Elementary: \$3.00 per player or \$10.00 per 4 player team if
entered at the same time. This section will not be nationally
rated.

Registration from 9:00-9:45 AM on Saturday, April 9, 1988.

ROUNDS

Elementary - All on Saturday	1. 10:00 AM	2. 11:00 AM
3. 1:00 PM	4. 2:00 PM	5. 3:00 AM

Jr & Sr High - Saturday	1. 10:00 AM	2. 1:00 PM	3. 4:00 PM
Sunday	4. 10:00 AM	5. 1:00 PM	

For more information or to send entry fees, contact: Terry Ness
1537 Omaha Drive Bismarck, ND 58501 Phone: 222-3965

LETS PLAY CHESS ! ! !

REQUIEM TO STEPHAN POPEL

I knew him not well, our dear Stephan Popel,
But I saw him through the eyes of those who did.

He came from the Ukraine, by underground train
Determined in his mind of oppression to be rid.

As he sought freedom and more, he passed through lines of war,
His destiny threatened on a battle grid.

By way of Vienna he passed, as the Nazis overhead were outclassed;
American bombers led by Colonel Abe nearly ended his liberty bid.

To America, land of liberty, he came - home of Liberty's flame;
In Fargo, he settled, to test his skills - drawing outsiders to a land chessicly arid.

He was never a preacher, instead he became a teacher,
Teaching French to his students, and also Chess to those interested.

A winner - Champion of Paris; A sportsman - a pillar of fairness;
A teacher of character and skill; off and on the board, His teachings always solid.

A man quiet with his pipe, saving comments for time that was ripe,
Always friendly and polite, even with those whose efforts were horrid.

Demonstrated by his games and rating, his strength on the board never abating,
Giving performance after performance of patience and skill in play often torrid.

His strength on the board was greatly underscored
By games against Benko, other GM's, and a Champion to be - though Fischer was still a

A teacher, a player, a pioneer and leader, He stood amidst the sagebrush, a majestic
And as we tumbled and fumbled our pawns away, he guided us, chided us, our will he enl

And they came from near and far, hoping against hope to better his par.
And that was tough indeed for more often than not the pieces that fell he stood amid.

The sands of time come and go, the tides of battle ebb and flow.
His mind ever eager, but his years running short, his gait became slow, his visage pal

Yet as the Sun began to fall, behind the pieces so tall,
The pallor of his face, behind his brilliance still hid.

Together we stand under a rising moon, shedding tears at, for us, a loss to soon;
And as we say our prayers of mourning, we slowly close his casket's lid.

And as we stand there under the stars, perhaps a thought our sorrow mars -
Stephan lives ever on, his spirit in the sky, shining down from Heaven's mid.

Shining brightly, like his smiles, overseeing a chessboard's tiles,
Drawing us ever onward to emulate North Dakota's chessic El Cid.

Yes I knew him barely, if at all, but still he stood there masterly and tall;
A giant in the hearts I see through the eyes of those who knew him did.

Joseph Cagner

CHESSPLAYERS! START PLANNING TO ATTEND THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!!

WHEN? April 23-24, 1989

WHERE? Doublewood Ramada Inn
I-94 & Hwy. 83 (Exit 36)
Bismarck, ND 58501

WHY? To compete
showing your best
chess skills, a
goal to win
the state
1988 title,
a class prize,
or just to play
a great game!!!

A 5 round Swiss system,
USCF Rated.

Entry fee: \$15.00,
if received by April
20th; \$9.00 for the
junior entrants,
(under age 19).

\$3 more at site.
(late registration
is Sat., 9-9:45 AM)

Send advance entry fees to: North Dakota Chess Association,
c/o 141 East 5th Street, Dickinson, ND 58601 (Ph: 225-8395.)

Stay at the Doublewood Ramada Inn: Call 258-7000 for room rates, etc.

* Tournament is open to residents of North Dakota. Players must be
in good standing (fees paid) with NDCA & USCF. Smoking and computers
are forbidden in the tournament room. All NDCA/USCF rules will apply.

* Tournament Schedule

Let's Play Chess!

Earlybird Speed Chess Tmt., 4/22,
Friday @ 7:30 pm, same site, \$1 entry.

Late Registration: Sat., 9-9:45 AM.

5 Rounds: Saturday 10 - 2:30 - 7:30.
Sunday @ 9:30 - 2:30.

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠

Fast Champions
of the
N.D. CLOSED ♠

1974 S. Popel
1975 S. Popel
1976 S. Popel
1977 T. Wangler
1978 S. Popel
1979 S. Popel
1980 S. Popel
1981 S. Turmo
1982 S. Turmo
1983 E. Knutson
1984 B. Stearns
1985 J. Stanfield
1986 J. Stanfield
1987 S. Turmo

PRIZE FUND AWARDED TO YOU!

- * \$500 distributed, based
on 30 players. If more
players, more money!!
- * Trophies to top 2 players,
top class A, B, C, and to
D-E-Unr. section!
- * Champion receives free
entry to '89 ND Closed.

* Time Control:

RD. 1, 45/100, 25/1.
RDS. 2-5, 45/2, 25/1.

* 1988 NDCA Annual

Membership Meeting.
Saturday, 4/23, @ 2 PM.
Please be there, thanks!

For white to lose another pawn in this position is hopeless. Well, how did you do? If you did well on the tactical part but not the positional ...study the games of great positional players (Petrosian, Fisher, Spassky, Ulf Andersson, "Ulf"?...yeah!) or if you did well on the strategical part but less well on the tactical...study 'moves that smite'! ... (Spielmann, Tal, though Tal is a little wild for most taste...) Actually, any Grandmaster and especially world champions blend both of the needed qualities.

Notes by H. Sprague, but more importantly, game by J. Moore and Stephan Popel !.

Stephan A. Popel, North Dakota's greatest chess player, passed away on December 27, 1987. We played four tournament games together. Mr. Popel won the first two in convincing fashion against a hopelessly overmatched opponent. In the third game I gave up my plan to bore him into defeat and came out swinging. He simply took his time and beat me again. He was my first opponent to use over half an hour on a move. Obviously he could see much further ahead than me. Our final game features Mr. Popel's beloved Center Counter Defense. He usually won the black side of the Center Counter unlike many others simply because Popel was Popel. Former ND highschool champ, Steve Lengenfelder and others play the Center Counter because Popel played it. People should remember Mr. Popel was a LIFE MASTER and could win with any opening.

W-Jerry Triggs	W-Jerry Triggs	W-Jerry Triggs	W-Jerry Triggs
B-S.A. Popel	B-Steve Leng.	B-Steve Leng.	B-Steve Leng.
1 e4 d5	1 e4 d5	1 e4 d5	1 e4 d5
2 exd5 Qxd5	2 exd5 Qxd5	2 exd5 Qxd5	2 exd5 Qxd5
3 Nf3 Nf6	3 Nf3 Nf6	3 Nf3 Nc6	3 Nf3 c5
4 Nc3 Qa5	4 Nc3 Qa5	4 Nc3 Qd8	4 Nc3 Qd8
5 d4 c6	5 Be2 e6	5 Bh5 Bd7	5 Bc4 e6
6 Bf4 Bg4	6 O-O Nd5	6 O-O e6	6 d3 a6
7 Be2 e6	7 Re1 Nxc3	7 Re1 Bb4	7 Qe2 Nf6
8 O-O Bb4	8 dxc3 c5	8 a3 Bxc3	8 Bg5 h6
9 Nb1 O-O	9 Bg5 Qc7	9 dxc3 Nge7	9 Bb4 Nc6
10 c3 Be7	10 Qd2 Be7	10 Ng5 a6	10 a3 Be7
11 Nbd2 Nbd7	11 Bxe7 Qxe7	11 Bd3 Ng6	11 O-O-O Nd7
12 Bd3 b5	12 Rad1 O-O	12 f4 O-O?	12 Bxe7 Qxe7
13 a3 Qb6	13 Bd3 b6	13 Qh5 h6	13 Kb1 b5
14 Be3 Qc7	14 Re4 Bb7	14 Nxf7 Rxf7	14 Ba2 b4
15 Qc2 Bh5	15 Re3 Nc6	15 Qxg6 Qf6?	15 axb4 cxb4
16 Rfe1 Bg6	16 Qe2 Rad8	16 Qh7+ Kf8	16 Ne4 a5
17 Bxg6 hxg6	17 Re1 h6	17 Qh8+ Ke7	17 d4 O-O
18 Bg5 Bd6	18 Nd2 Na5	18 Qxab	18 d5 exd5
19 Ne4 Bf4	19 Rh3 Qd7	Black	19 Bxd5 Ndb8
20 Bxf4 Qxf4	20 Ne4 Bc6?	Resigns	20 Rhe1 Ra7
Draw.	21 Nf6+ gxf6	If:	21 Qe3 Qc7
	22 Qg4+ Kh8	27 ... Kh7	22 Nd6 Ba6
	23 Rxh6 Mate	28 Ng5+ hxg5	23 g4 Qe7
		29 Qh3 Mate	24 Qf4 Qf6
			25 Qg3 Qd8?
		27 ... Kh7	26 Nxf7 Qc7
		28 Ng5+ Kh8	27 Ne5+ Kh8
		29 Ng6 Mate	28 Ng6+ Kh7
			29 Nxf8+
			Black
			Resigns.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Triggs
CDCC President
NDCA SW Region Representative

18. ...N-b6

(2) points

(and what else?)

19. B-f1

*

19. ...C-b7

(4) points

(! yeah...both hits the White KP and keeps a White look off a6 and keeps an eye on any possible look exchanges. Not bad for one move, eh?)

20. B-e3

*

20. ...g6

(2) points

(of course you can retreat the Bishop with 20. ...3-e6 (1) points, but in that case... 21. B-f3 Bxf3 22. exf3 also with some advantage... but Popel prefers to leave the KP fixed right where it is--both logical and hopeful of a larger advantage!)

21. Bxf3

*

21. ...Kxc4

(0) points

22. B-e2

*

22. ...N-f6

(3) points

(Nothing for 22...f5? When 23. exf5 gxf5 24. f-d2 gives White's Bishop new scope... if you chose this move, that is called 'losing the thread' of the game. It is never too late to "snatch defeat from the jaws of victory"!)

23. B-f1

*

24. ...Rxa1

(2) points

("Keeping the screws on" is the mark of a master. Since White's Bishop is basically useless, exchanges will only accentuate that.)

24. Rxa1

*

24. ...R-a8

(1) points

("Said 'A'-say 'B'." or see comment to Black's 19th move.)

25. R-d1

*

25. ...B-a2

(1) points

(what does Black intend...? Obviously to invade on the Q4 file...why not 25. ...B-c1? --no credit!-- 'cause the Queen Knight not only blocks the passed pawn but also attacks the QBPawn...one of the first targets!)

26. B-a2

*

26. ...R-a1

(3) points

(no credit for either 26. ...c-a3 or 26. ...R-a5 What are you attacking at those places?)

27. f5

*

27. ...Q-a3

(2) points

(equal credit for 27. ...Q-a7 -same idea!)

27. R-d2

*

28. ...Q-a5

(2) points

(score 1 point for 28. ...R-a1. the text is more to the point, increasing the pressure.)

29. K-f3

*

29. ...K-f8

(1) points

(What else? Since the Immediate, impatient 29. ...Q-b4 draws 30. B-d3 Black centralises for the endgame.)

30. g3

*

30. ...K-e7

(1) points

(better? -same thought as last time)

31. N-g2

*

31. ...Nxc4

(4) points

(!--also score same if you noticed that this was possible on the 29th or 30th turn. The perfect cap to a strategic victory is tactical fireworks...Unfortunately you have spent two and a half hours to reach this point, blow and counterblow,..sometimes the chance doesn't wander away but waits for you!)

32. Bxc4

*

32. ...Rxc4

(0) points

33. Qxc4

*

33. ...Oxd2+

(0) points

(one could reflect that, death, when it does come in a Queen Pawn opening, tends to come in a big lot...)

34. K-f1

*

34. ...Q-d1+

(2) points

if 35. K-f2 Q-d5+ is obviously won)

35. N-e1 (now

*

35. ...Q-b1

(2) points

36. Q-a4

*

36. ...N-c7

(2) points.

White Resigns.

The death of Professor S.A. Popel was a sad loss for North Dakota chess. He was undoubtedly the strongest player ever to reside in this state. In fact, he was at one time one of the strongest in the nation, reaching #1 in the February 1959 USCF rating list. He stayed over 2500 for many years.

Here is a partial list of his tournament firsts, given in no particular order: Minnesota Open, Minneapolis, 1976; Minneapolis Aquatennial Open, 1964, 1965, 1968 (tied), 1970 (tied); Indiana Open, Logansport, 1961 (tied); Tri-College Red River Open, Moorhead, 1971, 1974, 1976; F-M Open, Moorhead, 1971 (tied), 1974, 1976, 1983; North Dakota Open, Fargo, 1965, 1966, Jan. 1968, Oct. 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975 (tied), 1975 (tied), 1979 (tied), 1983, 1986 (tied); Paris Championship, 1951, 1953, 1954; North Dakota Closed, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980; Bison Open, Fargo, 1976, 1979, 1986 (tied), 1987; Michigan Open, Ann Arbor, 1957, Jackson, 1958, Ann Arbor, 1959, Battle Creek, 1964; Spann Memorial, Lincoln, Nebr., 1972; Region VI Championship, Minneapolis, 1967, 1970; North Central Open, Milwaukee, 1957 (tied), 1974 (tied), Western Open, Milwaukee, 1960. Assiduous research would easily add more victories to the list, as the foregoing does not pretend to be complete.

In his heyday Popel was more than capable of dealing with the best. Here are some games against names you'll recognize.

ANDREW KARKLINS (U.S. Championship participant, 1973, 1974) vs. POPEL
Chicago "2000," 1966

1. P-K4 P-K3; 2. P-Q4 P-Q4; 3. P-K5 P-QB4; 4. P-QB3 N-B3; 5. N-B3 P-B3;
6. B-Q3 Q-B2; 7. Q-K2 Q-BPXP; 8. BPXP NXQP; 9. Resigns

EDMAR MEDNIS (future GM) vs. POPEL U.S. Open, Oklahoma City, 1956

1. P-K4 P-Q4; 2. PXP QXP; 3. N-QB3 Q-QR4; 4. P-Q4 P-QB3; 5. N-B3 N-B3;
6. B-Q3 B-N5; 7. P-KB3 B-R4; 8. B-Q2 Q-B2; 9. Q-K2 QN-Q2; 10. P-KN4 B-N3;
11. N-K5 BXB; 12. NxB P-K3; 13. O-O-O B-Q3; 14. P-B4 Q-O; 15. P-KR4 N-Q4;
16. QR-B1 NxB; 17. BxN N-B3; 18. P-R5 N-Q4; 19. B-Q2 P-QB4; 20. PXP BxQBP;
21. K-N1 B-Q3; 22. P-B5 P-K4; 23. P-B6 QR-B1; 24. FXP QXP+; 25. K-R1 KXP;
26. NXP P-B3; 27. P-R6+ K-N1; 28. N-Q7 KR-K1; 29. Q-N2 Q-K5; 30. QXQ RXQ;
31. NXP+ NxB; 32. RxB B-K4; 33. R-B5 R-K7; 34. B-B3 BXB; 35. PxB RXP;
36. KR-KB1 R-B1; 37. R-N5+ K-R1; 38. R-N7 R-K3; 39. P-N5 R-QN3; 40. P-R3 P-R4;
41. R-QN1 Drawn

POPEL vs. NORMAN S. WEINSTEIN (future IM, 1973 U.S. Open champion)
U.S. Open, Atlantic City, 1972

1. Nf3 Nf6; 2. c4 g6; 3. Nc3 Bg7; 4. g3 O-O; 5. Bg2 d6; 6. O-O Nc6;
7. d3 Nh5; 8. Bd2 f5; 9. Qc1 e5; 10. Bh6 f4; 11. Bg7 Kg7; 12. Rb1 Bg4;
13. Qd2 Qd7; 14. Rfcl Rf7; 15. Ne4 Raf8; 16. Nfg5 Re7; 17. h3 Bf5;
18. g4 Bg4; 19. Ne4 Nf6; 20. Nf6 Rf6; 21. Bc6 Qc6; 22. f3 g5; 23. Kg2-h5;
24. Rh1 Kg8; 25. Qa5 a6; 26. Rbcl Kf8; 27. Qd5 Qb6; 28. Qe4 c6;
29. h4 Re7; 30. hg Re5; 31. Rh5 Rh5; 32. gh Qb2; 33. Rgl Qd4; 34. Qd4 ed;
35. Kh3 b5; 36. cb ab; 37. Kh4 c5; 38. Rbl Re6; 39. Rb5 Re2; 40. a4 Re3;
41. a5 Rd3; 42. a6 Ra3; 43. Rb8+ Ke7; 44. h6 Ra6; 45. h7 Ral;
46. h8/Q Rhl+; 47. Kg5 Rh8; 48. Rh8 Ke6; 49. Kf4 Resigns

GM PAL BENKO (two-time participant in Candidates' tourney) vs. POPEL
Western Open, Milwaukee, 1958

1. P-Q4 N-KB3; 2. P-QB4 P-K3; 3. N-QB3 B-N5; 4. P-K3 P-B4; 5. N-K2 O-O;
6. P-QR3 BxN+; 7. NxB P-Q3; 8. B-K2 P-K4; 9. O-O N-B3; 10. P-Q5 N-K2;
11. P-K4 N-K1; 12. B-N4 P-B4; 13. PXP NXBP; 14. BxN BxB; 15. P-B4 Q-R5;
16. B-K3 P-K5; 17. Q-K1 Q-R3; 18. P-R3 R-B3; 19. K-B2 R-N3; 20. R-R1 N-B3;
21. P-KN4 BXP; 22. PxB NXP+; 23. K-K2 N-R7; 24. Q-B2 Q-R4+; 25. K-Q2 N-B6+;
26. K-B2 Q-B4; 27. K-N3 P-QR3; 28. QR-KB1 P-N4; 29. Q-B2 R-N6;
30. K-R2 R-K1; 31. N-K2 R-N7; 32. RxB RxB; 33. QXR PXR; 34. QXP Q-Q6;
35. R-K1 PXP; 36. P-B5 Q-N6+; 37. K-N1 P-B6; 38. Q-B2 QXPQ; 39. B-B1 RxB;
40. QXR QXP+; 41. K-R1 PXP+; 42. BXP P-KR4; 43. Q-K2 P-R4; 44. Q-R6 P-Q4;
45. QXP P-Q5; 46. P-R4 Q-B8+; 47. K-R2 Q-B5+; 48. K-R1 P-R5; 49. Q-R8+ K-B2;
50. Q-N7+ K-B3; 51. Q-B6+ K-K4; 52. P-R5 P-R6; 53. P-R6 P-R7;
54. P-R7 Q-B8+; 55. K-R2 Q-B5+; 56. K-N1 Drawn

Tournament attendance down

18th Red River Open Moorhead MN 3/12-13/88

name	rtg	r.1	r.2	r.3	r.4	r.5	tot	Solk	Wet
1. Alex Sze	1946	+9	+8	=3	+2	=5	4		
2. S. Turmo	2096	+4	=5	+8	-1	+3	3½	15½	10
3. S. Sorenson	1975	+6	+7	=1	+5	-2	3½	15½	9½
4. Cam *	1818	-2	+10	+6	=7	+9	3½	11	
5. Cal Wipf	1825	+10	=2	+7	-3	=1	3	14	
6. G. Morris	1503	-3	+9	-4	+8	+10	3	11	
7. B. Meyer	1866	+11	-3	-5	=4	=8	2		
8. R. Buerkle	1475	+11	-1	-2	-6	=7	1½	13½	
9. Rick Haley	1375	-1	-6	+11	bye	-4	1½	11½	
10. John Miller	N	-5	-4	bye	=11	-6	1½	10½	
11. Carol Miller	N	-7	-8	-9	=10	bye	1½	6	

Unhappily the headline from the 3/13 Fargo Forum is all too true. Tournament attendance has been very low for several months. It remained low for the blizzard-blighted 18th Red River Open. Of the eleven who came, ten were local players who came through the abating storm.

Steve Turmo thought it would be a good opportunity to regain the crown that Don Aldrich took from him last year, but alas! it was not to be. Alexander Sze, one of Moorhead's five Life Members who seldom play in tournaments any more, made one of his infrequent appearances-- indeed, reserved the playing site-- and tripped Turmo in the fourth round. Their game is already being hailed as the most beautiful game ever played in Moorhead, involving, as it does, the sacrifice of two pieces to achieve mate. (That may be spreading it a bit thick, but the reader can decide for himself that it is a brilliant combination at the end. See the game listed below.)

So Sze siezed the championship with four points, drawing with Sorenson and Wipf but winning the others. Half a point back were Turmo, Sorenson and Starr. Other prizewinners were Calvin Wipf and Gerry Morris.

Sicilian

Moorhead 1988

A. Sze (w)

S. Turmo (b)

1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N KB3, P-Q3; 3. PQ4 PxP; 4. KxP, NKB3;
5. NQB3, PQR3; 6. BK2, P-K4; 7. NN3, BK3; 8. PB4, QB2;
9. PB5, BB5; 10. BxB, QxB; 11. QK2, QB3; 12. BN5, QN2;
13. O-O-O, BK2; 14. PN4, RQB; 15. PRR4, NN3; 16. BxN,
PxB; 17. KRN, PR3; 18. KN, NB5; 19. N-Q5, P-N4; 20. P-N5,
RXP; 21. PxF, PxF; 22. f-B6, B-B; 23. KxP, N-N3; 24. N-R5,
Q-B4; 25. N-N7, Q-B5; 26. RXP+!!; PXR; 27. QxQ, resigns

Had Turmo forseen the combination he probably would have played 22. . . B-Q. At the end if black captures the queen, N-B7+ leads to mate.

WORLD BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Mikhail Tal, age 51, and former world chess champion, defeated fellow Soviet Rafael Vaganian, age 36, by the score of 4-0. The victory gave Tal a first place finish, the world Blitz crown, and top prize of \$37,500. Many top Grandmasters competed.

THE "POPEL" I KNEW

In a couple of days I will be traveling to Fargo for the 1988 Bison. I recall the 1987 Bison as one of my best. I went 4-1 with my lone loss being one at the hands of Stephen Popel. I do not know if that was his last tournament but I think it was. My record with him over the many years was no wins, 12 losses, and one draw. We had played many skittles and speed games and I don't recall a good record with them either. He always held some sort of sign on most players. I did well against some 2300 plus players but when I sat down with him it was always; How long will I last?; and; "How many moves will it take?; LINCOLN, NEB. US OPEN 1976: Col. Abe Thompson, I, Somner, Stephen and a few others had traveled to Lincoln that year for the event. Someone found out it was Stephens birthday. Much bally-ho was made as to the exact age he was at the time. He claimed somewhere between 65 and 75. Others had guesses in between. Eventually a party was held in one of the hotel rooms with Bisquier, Lombardy and other pros in attendance. I met a South American expert by the name of Ruth Cordoza. I remember it well because Abe used it as a campaign slogan for my race to the presidency of the NDCA (in those days the office was a contested one) Abe said how can you not vote for a man who rubbed knees with Ruth Cordoza? Anyway that party with all the chess pros from all over and the many many funny stories and interesting recalls by Stephen and others will always be an unforgettable memory for me.

OTHER POINTS: Stephen did many things for chess in North Dakota. In the early 70's he did a simul for me at the Kirkwood Mall in Bismarck in connection with the annual Kirkwood Open. His trips to the N.D. Closed will always be remembered. I choose not to put any of our games in this newsletter. I am sure that someday someone will undertake the task of publishing most if not all of his games in a book. I do remember the first game I saw him play. I think it was the 67 or 68 Open. in Fargo. I was paired against Don Varvel on board two and my friend Ole Kraav was paired against Stephen on board one. The game was a power thing up the middle and Ole never did get to castle and Popel steam rolled up the center and made short work of the game. He never left board one.

HAVE ONE FOR ME AND I: I will mention a couple of times when Mr. Popel and I hoisted a few for friendship sake. he enjoyed these on occasion. On a trip to Fargo (don't recall the year, could have been 1978) one weekend I had a chance to stop in at Col. Thompson's for a little fun and refreshments.

The following game was played in the final round of the Minot Winterfest Open (February 1974) and was my first encounter with Life-Master Stephen Popel. This tournament held special significance in that it was my first rated tournament in my home town (not to mention my home state) and, in addition, I reckoned my rating at the time to be five points shy of the magic 2200 level. Trailing Popel and two others by a half-point, I required a win to tie for first place. (Richard Borgen in "Michigan Chess")

BORGEN-POPEL

1. PK4 PQ4 2. PXP QXP The old Center Counter Defense is a Popel trade mark. Contrary to initial appearances, its aim is to build a solid position, with d5 as its focal point--rather similar to the Caro-Kann Defense. More commonly seen nowadays is 2...NKB3, except in North Dakota, of course.

3. NQB3 QQR4 4. PQ4 PQR3 5. NB3 NB3 6. BK2 It used to be thought that 6. NK5 was very strong here, but 6...BK3 is probably adequate for Black. Boleslavsky gives 6. BQB4 BN5 7. PKR3 BR4 8. PKN4 BN3 9. NK5 as sharper--if you should care about such things. I do not claim there is anything in particular to recommend my move except that it is different.

6...BB4 7. NK5 QNQ2 8. NB4 QB2 9. OO PK3 10. BN5 BK2 Not finding anything exciting to do, I tacked about trying to find where my pieces belong.

11. BR4 NN3 Preventing 12. BN3 and 13. NQ6+

12. BN3 QQ1 13. NK3 BN3 14. BB3 OO 15. QO2 NNQ4 16. KPX1 QO2 17. NB4

The beginning of a plan: weaken Black's kingside pawn structure a bit and try to go to work on it.

17...PN4 18. NK5 QN2 19. NxB RPxN 20. NK4 NxN 21. BxN KPD1 22. EK5

This bishop is central to White's schemes, so Black should have considered swapping it off. His position is still quite sound.

22...PR4 23. PQB3 PR5 Black might have done better to keep the option of ...PN5 open, but he is still all right.

24. PQR3 NN3 25. BQ3 QO2 26. RK3! With the obvious intention of swinging to the kingside, but this required careful calculation because of Black's ensuing moves. Popel must have thought I had overlooked something.

26...BN4? 27. PKB4 BK2 28. RR3 The first point--28...FB3 29. BxNKP PxB 30. QK2 (threatening RR3) is crushing.

28...NB5 To eliminate the offending bishop.

29. BxN PxB 30. FB5! Of course this is necessary now to free the bishop, but Popel misses the nasty second point; the pawn is immune! Perhaps I looked a bit desperate. Time was short and I was feverishly calculating a fresh sacrifice! In any case, Popel's reply came quickly.

30...KPxP? 31. RR8 Resigns

(31...KxR 32. QR6..) It was necessary for Black to try 30...FB3 (since 30...BB1 31. PXP PXP 32. QN5 is hopeless), but now White has the tremendous 31. PxNP! PxB 32. QK3!!, simultaneously preventing the defense ...B-N4-R3 and threatening 33. RR8! KxR 34. QR3+ etc. The following variations reveal some of the ideas: 32...PXP 33. RR8+ KxR 34. QR3+ RR5 35. QxP. KN1 36. RKB1 or 32...BB3 33. PXP QO7 (33...QR2 34. QxQ RQO 35. PxB and Black's weak queenside pawns should prove fatal) 34. QB3! RQ6 35. QxP KxR 36. QxP. KR1 37. QxR+ KN1 38. QR7+ KB1 39. QR8+ KK2 40. PxB+ etc.

Frankly, I cannot be sure I would have played 31. PxNP! since I was short of time and knew that 31. PXP was quite all right for white. If Popel had responded quickly with 30...PB3, I would have been faced with a common dilemma; whether to same time and play it safe or risk precious minutes calculating a promising but complicated sacrifice. One must learn to "smell" the right choice--or stay out of time-pressure!



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Thank You! Let's Play CHESS!

EDITORIALY SPEAKING

Spring is at hand and it is a time for new beginnings, yet this time it is also a time for memories...and sad ones at that. North Dakota chess great and NDCA Chess Hall-of-Famer Stephen Popel has passed on and we pause to reflect on a career that each of us has talked at one time or another. I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Popel, and on a few occasions I got to speak with him, but I never really knew him well. Never-the-less, even my experiences in chess are salted liberally with occasions in which Dr. Popel played a part.

In March, 1981, I played in my first rated tournament. It was the Red River Open held annually at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. About five saw Dr. Popel playing Steve Turmo, and Don Henderson playing Mike Synstelien, on the top two boards at Concordia. The winner of the tourney. For me, Popel/Turmo, or the reverse, was to become a not unfamiliar pairing to see at the end of tournaments. I remember another occasion when I had the brass to ask Dr. Popel for a skittles game, but he was getting old and had to conserve his strength. Not that it would have made any difference against me. This was an F.H. Open, and as usual North Dakota's Life Master would go on to win it all. Clearly I just wasn't in a class with him. Of course that was part of a lot stronger players than myself. I remember the surprise at first that that my boss had studied French from Popel, and his memories of how Dr. Popel likened the study of French to games on the chessboard. The variety of the competition that I have faced was made greater and as well stronger because of Dr. Popel's participation in tourneys where he had nothing to gain. I remember watching some of them who were good enough, or lucky enough in the pairings, to get a game beat-tracacies of what was going on on the board, I did learn by watching the reactions of the players. Dr. Popel was always cool, calm, and quietly patient that it was like watching a statue. But the other players were always a different story. I saw joy at superior position on the board and the looks of helplessness as it sometimes disappeared before their eyes. I saw others who seemed to have an edge yet were as nervous as cats on tin rooves, and fighting to bear up under their worry over what Popel would do. I remember Steve Turmo once comment that Dr. Popel was outstanding at waiting for the other guy to make a mistake. And I remember Turmo's jubilation when he finally defeated this great teacher at a Bismarck Open. And then there was the N.D. Open in 1986, when surely Popel was no longer in the condition to win. You could hear the knowing comments and see the disappointment of some when Popel drew in the first round to a class B player. But before it was over Popel had made it back to play in the 6th round for the title with a string of victories that included the top players in a tourney where he was only seeded 3rd or 4th. He won that tournament, beating Minnesota's Nels Truelson in an endgame that Truelson later commented, "I have played that ending so many times and I have only lost it twice - both to Popel. Never to other masters."

We will miss him greatly. But perhaps not to greatly. For he is with us even now. Dr. Popel was chess in North Dakota and he has become an indelible part of every one of us. Rest in peace, Stephan Popel.

Joseph Gagner

NORTH DAKOTA CHESS HALL OF FAME

Stephan A. Popel 1983 ♔	Olev Kraav 1987 ♔	Abe M. Thompson 1987 ♔
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DR. STEPHAN POPEL

This is the first of several articles on one of North Dakota's most popular chessplayers, and the only North Dakota Master. The article is taken from an interview by Rod Avery during the Minot Winterfest.

At the time of his birth, Dr. Popel's home was in Austria under Kaiser Franz Joseph in 1907. After WWI it became Poland, and in 1939 it was occupied by Germans. Two years later it was occupied by Russians, and then Germans again. "This way I changed countries without changing my life or my work." "Most of my life was spent in France because my mother was of French origin. I lost my father in 1912. We stayed with my mother's relatives although we had some interest, estates, land and cattle in Austria. We did return in 1914 to sell all we had, but the First World War had unfortunately started and we could not return to France. The war had some very cruel aspects." Popel returned to France to finish his education while his mother remained to sell their holdings. Due to heavy inflation and devaluation the Popel's lost everything after the war even though prior to the war they were financially a very secure family.

It was only because of scholarships that Stephan Popel and four of his brothers were able to continue the pursuits of higher education. Stephan graduated with a master's degree in French Literature and Latin in the early 20's. He was offered a teaching position at a university in Poland after graduation. However, he always returned to France during his vacations.

While maintaining an academic position in Poland Stephan managed to become a law student at the University and graduated in 1939 just a few weeks prior to WWII.

Dr. Popel learned to play chess at the age of four sitting on the knee of his father as he played his brother-in-law. Although he knew the names of the pieces, he was more fascinated with the movements of the strange pieces of wood. Several years later he played because it "was a favorite toy." He had only an older brother to play with.

When asked why he played chess, Dr. Popel replied that he occasionally played because it was his favorite toy. He also said that since he was raised in war torn Europe and he regarded the black pieces as his mortal enemy. He took intense delight in defeating them with his army, the white pieces. Although he was only seven he was a serious student of chess, perhaps because of displaced aggression.

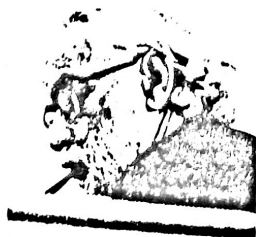
Later, chess became a science rather than just a game. At the age of 18, after several years of serious study, he became champion of the university. At this time another change began to appear, as Stephan began to regard chess as an art, a thing of immense beauty. At this point he saw that chess, like love, was a gem of great beauty and precious quality.

Stephan also sees chess through the eyes of an educator as a game of skill with many educational values. "Now I see chess as a sport, a very good sport for young people, an intellectual sport, and a physical sport. You have to have strong nerves, patience, and a will to win, to fight."

"But now, due to may age, it is a game once again."



Dr. Popel giving
P.J. a chess
lesson at the
Grand Forks tor.



Dr. Popel at the
Minot Winterfest

As fate would have it Stephen called and invited us over. It seemed he just received a new Russian newspaper to read to us and a fresh supply of Vodka (or whatever it was in the bottle). Anyway it was around 8:30 or so when we arrived. To make a small story short, fun, chess and BS was had by all three of us until who knows what time in the morning. My next day was spent in the motel wondering if my head or my stomach was going to pass on first. Stephen always took things like this in stride. It seemed like he was more adapt to this than I. I remember one Thursday night at the Prince Hotel in Bismarck when the Closed was a three day event. When he arrived he call and Bruce Davidson and I went down to have a few with him at the Prince Lounge (The Prince Lounge is the home of the Smith and Curns drink for you trivia buffs) Well we closed the place up at one and the next day thank goodness there was only two rounds. I took it poorly, I don't remember how Bruce took it but it looked like Mr. Popel did fine. Enough already, pay your respects, he was chess in North Dakota.

RON SCHAUER

The following game was submitted by Eric Knutson, and is from the Red River Open, January 9, 1977.

S.A. Popel/ Eric Knutson

1) Nf3 Nf6 2) d4 c5 3) c3 g6 4) Bf4 Bg7 5) e3 b6 6) Nbd2 0-0 7) Be2 Bb7 8) 0-0 Nh5 9) Be5 Nf6 10) Re1 d6 11) Bg3 Nbd7 12) a4 Nh5 13) a5 Nxb3 14) hXN Qc7 15) Ra3 e5 16) Qa1 Rfe8 17) Qa2 Qc6 18) a6 Bc8 19) Ng5 d5 20) Bf3 Nf6 21) c4 eXd 22) cXd Qb5 23) d6 dXe 24) QXf+ Kh8 25) RaXe RXR 26) RXR Qa4 27) Re7 Qa1 28) Nf1 resigns.

NOTICE

CHESS AUCTION!

At the NORTH DAKOTA CLOSED, and I am hoping at the NORTH DAKOTA OPEN, I am purposing an AUCTION SALE of chess articles for revenue of the NDCA. I am donating a chess clock, one board, one magnetic set, one pocket set and one 18 x 18 framed POPEL MEMORIES item. If anyone else would like to donate items please let me know and then bring them to the Closed and then the OPEN. All revenue generated by this auction will go toward the NDCA. I will personally conduct the auction. Please attend, donate and bid. RONALD R. SCHAUER, pres. NDCA

NOTICE - CHESS AUCTION - NOTICE

When Joe Gagner made his call for games vs. Popel in the last issue of NCCA News, I thought it would be a snap to answer the call. After all, I doubt if anyone has lost to Popel more than I have. Between the first time I played him (Oct. 1965) and the last (Nov. 1986) I scored two short last-round draws which Popel had offered; when 1/2 point was all he needed to clinch first place; twice I had scored full points over him: once his flag fell (10th Bison, Fargo, 1/17/82) and once I mated him (F-M Open, Moorhead, rd. 3, Sept. 1986). Every other encounter was a win for Popel.

Picking out two games should be a piece of cake, right? Well, it wasn't as easy as I imagined. Even though I couldn't find all my game scores-- I can think of at least three missing-- and some games were unidentified, some moves were illegible or mistranscribed and others had omissions making reconstruction of the games impossible, those weren't the hardest things.

The most depressing part of this project was the realization that Popel's wins were not flukes; he really WAS a better player than I. He makes his wins look so effortless and makes me look so bad, darn it. I could have cried.. In a small way I can empathize with Bent Larsen after Fischer had broken him 6-0.

Finally I chose a couple that give us a peek into Popel's great fighting spirit when apparently his position had become somewhat uncomfortable.

Tri-College F-M Open, Moorhead, 4/23/72 round 5
S. Sorenson (w) S. A. Popel (b)

1. P-K4, N-KB3; 2. N-QB3, P-Q3; 3. P-Q4, QN-Q2; 4. N-B3, P-KN3; 5. B-QB4, N-N3; 6. B-N3, B-N2; 7. B-K3, O-O; 8. Q-Q2, N-N5; 9. O-O, P-QB3; 10. QR-Q, Q-B2; 11. B-KB4, P-K4; 12. PXP, PXP; 13. B-N3, R-K; 14. P-KR3, N-R3; 15. Q-N5, B-Q2; 16. R-Q3, K-R; 17. KR-Q, P-B3; 18. Q-Q2, B-K3; 19. BxB, RxB; 20. N-Q4, R-K2; 21. K(4)-K2, N-B2; 22. P-N3, P-KR4; 23. Q-K, N-Q2; 24. P-QR4, N-B4; 25. R-Q4, Q-N3; 26. R-B4, N-K3; 27. K-R2, B-R3; 28. P-B3, R-R; 29. RxR+, QxR; 30. N-R2, R-Q2; 31. Q-B2, R-Q7; 32. K(R2)-B, N-Q5; 33. P-B3, NxN; 34. NxN, Q-Q6; Resign.

Tri-College Red River Open, Moorhead, rd.4, 1/17/71

Popel (w) S. Sorenson (b)

1. N-KB3, P-KB4; 2. P-Q4, N-KB3; 3. B-B4, P-Q3; 4. P-K3, P-K3; 5. P-B4, B-K2; 6. NB3, O-O; 7. BQ3, QN-Q2; 8. P-KR3, NR4; 9. B-R2, P-KN3; 10. Q-B2, B-B3; 11. O-O-O, P-Q3; 12. P-KN4, N-N2; 13. QR-N, K-R; 14. R-N5, B-K2; 15. P-KR4, P-N4; 16. PXP, B-N2; 17. Q-K2, P-K4; 18. QPXP, QPXP; 19. NxP, BxR; 20. RxB, B-Q3; 21. NxN, QxN; 22. BxB, QxB; 23. PXP, N-K3; 24. R-Q, Q-N5; 25. B-B4, KR-K; 26. P-R3, Q-B4; 27. R-Q5, Q-N3; 28. Q-B2, QR-Q; 29. P-N4, P-B3; 30. R-R5, Q-B2; 31. N-R4, Q-KN2; 32. Q-B3, N-B2; 33. QxQ+, KxQ; 34. N-B5, R-Q3; 35. N-N7, R-Q2; 36. R-B5, R(1)-K2; 37. R-RxQBP, N-R; 38. R-B8, resigns.

(I had overlooked that white's 38th would threaten mate.)

WOMEN'S CANDIDATE WINNER

Nana Ioseliani, age 26, will challenge fellow soviet Maya Chiburdanidze later this year for the Women's World Chess Championship. Maya is the current champion and has reigned since 1978.

It has been said that a chessplayer's best memorial is his games, and many of Popel's, along with his numerous tournament victories, will live after him. He will be well remembered by many--not just in this state, but wherever he had competed.

John D. Kattel

One more game should perhaps be given in this compilation of Popel's tussles with the great and near-great. His opponent will need little introduction! The game was published in this journal once before, but that was a few years back. It may, therefore, bear repeating for the benefit of newer readers who may not be familiar with it.

ROBERT J. FISCHER (future world champion) vs. POPEL U.S. Open,
Oklahoma City, 1956

1. N-KB3 N-KB3; 2. P-KN3 P-KN3; 3. B-N2 B-N2; 4. O-O O-O; 5. P-Q3 P-Q3;
6. P-K4 P-B4; 7. QN-Q2 N-B3; 8. P-QR4 P-QR3; 9. N-B4 R-N1; 10. P-R5 B-K3;
11. N/3-Q2 P-Q4; 12. PXP BXP; 13. N-N3 BXB; 14. KXB N-Q5; 15. N×N P×N;
16. B-B4 R-B1; 17. B-K5 Q-Q4+; 18. Q-B3 QXQ+; 19. KXQ N-Q4; 20. BXB KXB;
21. KR-K1 P-K3; 22. R-R3 KR-Q1; 23. R-N3 R-B2; 24. K-K2 N-K2; 25. K-Q2 N-B3;
26. R-N6 R-Q4; 27. R-QR1 K-B1; 28. R-R3 K-K2; 29. R/3-N3 N-Q1; 30. P-B4 P-N4;
31. PXP RXP; 32. N-Q6 R/4-QB4; 33. P-B4 PXPep+; 34. PXP RXP; 35. NXP R-R7+;
36. K-K3 RXP; 37. N×N K×N; 38. RXP K-K2; 39. Drawn

CANDIDATE MATCH RESULTS (From St. John, New Brunswick, Canada)

Jonathan Speelman	4	England
Yasser Seirawan	1	United States
Artur Yusopov	3½	Soviet Union
Jan Ehlvest	1½	Soviet Union
Nigel Short	3½	England
Gyala Sax	1½	Hungary
Jan Timman	3½	Holland
Valery Salov	2½	Soviet Union
Johann Hjartarson	4½	Iceland
Viktor Korchnoi	3½	Switzerland
Kevin Spraggett	6½	Canada
Andrei Sokolov	5½	Soviet Union (*** Overtime Match)

Round two matches, later this year, will pair Anatoli Karpov and Johann Hjartarson, Jan Timman and Lajos Portisch, Artur Yusopov and Kevin Spraggett, and Nigel Short against Jon Speelman. The winner will challenge Gary Kasparov for the 1990 World Chess Title.

1988 USA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The Champions of the West Region, "Laki, Laki, Maki, and Haki", won the title in a playoff against the champions of the East, Midwest, and South. The final playoff was by phone. The members of the championship team are from California and are Cyrus Lakdawala, Jimmy Lakdawala, James Maki, and Dan Neilson.

One could say quite a lot in tribute to the late Dr. Stephan Popel... But what I find personally most attractive was the lucid logical style of his play. I don't for one minute mean to suggest that he was 'infallible'...also Russian Grandmasters would have feared him. But he developed his style of play versus other masters... for instance no less a preacigious opening book than Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings... "B" contains this reference to the good Doctor... 3. d4 N-f3 4. e4 d5 5. exd5 Qxd5 6. N-c3 Q-a5 7. B-f3 B-f6 8. B-e2 B-e7 9. B-d3 B-d6 10. B-c2 B-c7 11. B-b3 B-b6 12. B-a4 B-a5 13. B-b3 B-b6 14. B-c2 B-c7 15. B-d3 B-d6 16. B-e2 B-e7 17. B-f3 B-f6 18. B-g4 B-g5 19. B-h4 B-h5 20. B-g3 B-g4 21. B-f4 B-f5 22. B-g5 B-g4 23. B-f4 B-f5 24. B-g5 B-g4 25. B-f4 B-f5 26. B-g5 B-g4 27. B-f4 B-f5 28. B-g5 B-g4 29. B-f4 B-f5 30. B-g5 B-g4 31. B-f4 B-f5 32. B-g5 B-g4 33. B-f4 B-f5 34. B-g5 B-g4 35. B-f4 B-f5 36. B-g5 B-g4 37. B-f4 B-f5 38. B-g5 B-g4 39. B-f4 B-f5 40. B-g5 B-g4 41. B-f4 B-f5 42. B-g5 B-g4 43. B-f4 B-f5 44. B-g5 B-g4 45. B-f4 B-f5 46. B-g5 B-g4 47. B-f4 B-f5 48. B-g5 B-g4 49. B-f4 B-f5 50. B-g5 B-g4 51. B-f4 B-f5 52. B-g5 B-g4 53. B-f4 B-f5 54. B-g5 B-g4 55. B-f4 B-f5 56. B-g5 B-g4 57. B-f4 B-f5 58. B-g5 B-g4 59. B-f4 B-f5 60. B-g5 B-g4 61. B-f4 B-f5 62. B-g5 B-g4 63. B-f4 B-f5 64. B-g5 B-g4 65. B-f4 B-f5 66. B-g5 B-g4 67. B-f4 B-f5 68. B-g5 B-g4 69. B-f4 B-f5 70. B-g5 B-g4 71. B-f4 B-f5 72. B-g5 B-g4 73. B-f4 B-f5 74. B-g5 B-g4 75. B-f4 B-f5 76. B-g5 B-g4 77. B-f4 B-f5 78. B-g5 B-g4 79. B-f4 B-f5 80. B-g5 B-g4 81. B-f4 B-f5 82. B-g5 B-g4 83. B-f4 B-f5 84. B-g5 B-g4 85. B-f4 B-f5 86. B-g5 B-g4 87. B-f4 B-f5 88. B-g5 B-g4 89. B-f4 B-f5 90. B-g5 B-g4 91. B-f4 B-f5 92. B-g5 B-g4 93. B-f4 B-f5 94. B-g5 B-g4 95. B-f4 B-f5 96. B-g5 B-g4 97. B-f4 B-f5 98. B-g5 B-g4 99. B-f4 B-f5 100. B-g5 B-g4

To me, to play over a master's game...trying to anticipate his moves...is one of the best forms of 'relaxation'. For instance, many players are apt to attack before they have established what positional advantages are inherent in their position...ie they take a wild swing while still off-balance themselves. So then, play over the game of Stephan Popel, try to anticipate his moves, see how well you do, and score yourself... above all else, know why that move...for, as Stephan was wont say, "They make the moves...but they do not understand why...!"

White: J. B. Moore Black: Stephan Popel
(Hastings, Premier Reserves,...Tournament 1955-56)

The first moves are... 1. d4 N-f3 2. N-f3 e6 3. c4 B-b4+ (White's move order having precluded a Nimzo-Indian Black opts for a Bogo-Indian. Other major choices are 3...d5 (Queen's Gambit), 3...c5 (Benoni), and 3...b6 (Queen's Indian).) 4. B-d3 Q-c7 5. e3 O-O 6. B-d3 N-c6 7. a3 Bxd2+ 8. Nfxd2 BxN 9. O-O e4 10. d5 N-b6 11. e4 (at first sight it would seem that White has an overwhelming advantage...The center, the Bishop pair, better developed... Black has moved a pawn twice, has undeveloped his Queen Knight...well only time will tell.) If you should like to play along and total up the points at the end... simply cover up the Black moves till you see the star, write down your move, then uncover Popel's move...and alternate choices. Happy Hunting!

* 11. B-g4 (4) points

(In this position Bishops do not have much scope, hence black can exchange so as to 'plant' a knight at c5, or d4, or f4. (2) points for either 11... a5 or 11...c5 which may well be as playable... but we must give the Doctor's choice weighted consideration. Personally I would have also felt that development was better than pawn shuffling.) 12. Q-c2

* 12. ... N/b-d7 (2) points

(Equal points for 12. ...a5 which tends to restrict White's Queenside ambitions...in any one position there may be no 'best' move, only choices.) 13. b4

* 13. ... a5 (2) points

(A considerable amount of time can be saved on contemplation since a 'candidate move' on one turn will often become the best move on another. No credit for the impatient 13...bxf3 for "What's the rush"?... deduct a point for 13...h6 as it is pointless.) 14. R/f-e1

* 14. ... axb4 (1) points

(Not for the idea of opening the Q file...which is of no particular merit...but for the idea for fixing White's Queenside pawns! ((take an extra pat on the back if you saw this idea back on the 11th or 12th move.))...)) 15. axb4

* 15. ... c5 (3) points (if surprised, review the first sentence in comments to the 13th...)

(Just for fun, try and figure out Moore's next move, ie do you expect 16. bxc5, or 16. dxc6 ep., or 16. b5 ... ? Obviously J. B. did not get into this journey by being an idiot... and Stephan isn't treating him like one...)) 16. dxc6 ep.

* 16. ... bxc6 (0) points

(I suspect that Popel would have loved to see White play 16. bxc5 ? Nxc5 or 16. b5 ? N-b6 as White's Bishop would have been worth little more than a pawn... "Do the best you can by making the best moves you can.") 17. N-e1 -(here 17. N-h4 w/ 18. N-f5 is at least 'toward the enemy'.)

* 17. ... c5 (4) points

(You didn't fear White's coming passed Knight Pawn... did You? It obviously cannot go anywhere for a long time to come.. and meanwhile evrything is fixed in place.) 18. b5

Top 25 Chessplayers of North Dakota

Chessplayer	Rating	City
1 STEPHAN A. POPEL	2177	FARGO
2 STEVE TURMO	2090	FARGO
3 ASNAWI RAMLI	2053	FARGO
4 JERRY TRIGGS	1993	HANDAN
5 RONALD R. SCHAUER	1964	HANDAN
6 MIKE SAILER	1962	BISMARCK
7 RICHARD E. HERR	1948	MINOT
8 BARRY R. MILLER	1939	MINOT
9 RICK CASE	1925	ANTLER
10 JOHN P. STANFIELD	1925	BISMARCK
11 BRUCE DAVIDSON	1906	JAMESTOWN
12 GILBERT B. TEMME	1880	MINOT
13 MICHAEL SPRAGUE	1862	BISMARCK
14 TERRY NESS	1856	ALBANY
15 JOHN LEITEL	1855	RUGBY
16 DAVID O. LINDSETH	1837	FARGO
17 CAL WIPP	1825	FARGO
18 CAMERON STARR	1818	FARGO
19 FREDERICK K. LOBDELL	1797	GRAND FORKS
20 REUBEN N. LUBKA	1753	FARGO
21 BRIAN LANGTON	1731	GRARY
22 GERALD M. FAUSKE	1703	FARGO
23 DOUGLAS R. STONEKING	1682	MINOT
24 EDWARD M. LUTGEN	1697	MINOT
25 LA MOYNE SPLICHAL	1661	DICKINSON

Notes: The USCF Ratings above were received February 22, 1988. The list is dedicated to Life Master Stephan Popel, who inspired many chessplayers in North Dakota, with his play. We will miss seeing his presence on Board #1, however, he remains the top North Dakotan for many of us. (LS)

CHESS NEWS

The 1988 North Dakota Postal Chess Championship is underway with 4 players competing for the state title. Michael Sprague of Minot is defending his title against LaMoynne Splichal (Dickinson), Silvano Bentzel (Minot), and 1986 champ Clifford Berger (also of Dickinson). Players have six games each in the double round robin. Almost anything can happen in postal chess, good moves as well as an occasional blunder! So, good luck to all the players in their games.

In a recent winter match, LaMoynne Splichal and Jerry Triggs finished with a 1-1 score. Under match conditions, LaMoynne claimed a victory after game two. After the setback, Jerry came back to win the following match 4-0!

Students at two elementary schools played a chess match in March, 1988. Northridge defeated Pioneer. The casual non-rated games provided competition before the N. D. Scholastic. Northridge was pleased with the result after having lost to Pioneer in 1987 in the first match of this kind for that school.

On April 29, CM Arthur Bisguier from the USCF office will give a simul in St. Cloud, Minnesota. It is at 6:30 PM, Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN. Entry fee is \$10. Reservations can be made thru Jeff Dahl, 530 16th Str., #106, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Mr Bisguier will also play in the 4th St. Cloud Open, April 30 and May 1.

Mini-Treasurer's Report: As of March 20, NDCA has 70 members paid up, belonging to the chapter. This number is too low! We need to register more players, so many can benefit from state chess activities. Also, only 35 of the 70 members are members of the USCF. Other players are not receiving state or national news. Currently, the NDCA has \$197.24 in the treasury, of which \$150 is reserved for the Scholastic activities. As you see, time is now for us to encourage new players to join us, for a better and healthier organization. I think we can manage if everybody helps out.

LaMoynne Splichal,
Secretary-Treasurer

"EIGHTY-SEVEN" FINALS

December 24-25, 1987,
Bismarck, N.D.

TL: 30/1.
TD: D. Sailer

	Pre	Post	#1	#2	#3	
1. Ronald Schauer	1751	1764	W-0	W-5	D-2	2½
2. Clifford Berger	1769	1739	W-3	D-4	D-1	2
3. Dale Sailer	1392	1458	L-2	W-6	W-5	2
4. Steve Lengenfelder	1531	1554	L-5	D-2	W-6	1½
5. Mike Sailer	1339	1362	W-4	L-1	L-3	1
6. Joe Gagner	1511	1490	L-1	L-3	L-4	0

A spur of the moment tourney, at the end of 1987, was played during the holidays in Bismarck. Six players accepted invitations to play some spirited chess. A small entry fee took care of basic expenses, with players gaining some fun cheap entertainment: — Congratulations to Ron on first place performance.

16th BISON OPEN

January 16-17, 1988

NDSU, Fargo, ND TC: 35/90

Player	rd.1	rd.2	rd.3	rd.4	rd.5	Tot.
1) Steve Turmo	W-9	D-8	W-2	W-3	W-5	4½
2) Jerry Triggs	D-7	W-14	L-1	W-10	W-8	3½
3) Mike Sailer	W-10	W-6	D-5	L-1	W-7	3½
4) Richard Peterson	L-5	D-9	W-14	W-13	W-12	3½
5) Ron Schauer	W-4	W-12	D-3	D-8	L-1	3
6) Dave Lindseth	W-15	L-3	L-12	W-11	W-13	3
7) Reuben Lubka	D-2	D-13	W-15	W-12	L-3	3
8) Rick Case	W-11	D-1	D-13	D-5	L-2	2½
9) Cam Starr	L-1	D-4	L-10	W-15	W-14	2½
10) Cal Wipf	L-3	D-11	W-9	L-2	BYE	2½
11) Mark Hanson	L-8	D-10	BYE	L-6	W-15	2½
12) Chris Lindseth	Bye	L-5	W-6	L-7	L-4	2
13) Richard Herr	D-14	D-7	D-8	L-4	L-6	1½
14) Gerry Morris	D-13	L-2	L-4	BYE	L-9	1½
15) Jason Isaacson	L-6	BYE	L-7	L-9	L-11	1

Information unavailable for reserve section.

March '88 Tornado

Area flyers were sent, word of mouth news spread, then 10 players arrived for chess action in Bismarck. Dale Sailer set-up & directed the 3 round event, held at the Bismarck Capital Electric Bldg. The spacious Hospitality Room was ideal for a quiet game. Here are final results of the March Tornado. (Mar. 5, 1988 - TC: 25/1 & 25/1.)

1. Mike Sailer	1962	Bismarck	W10	W3	D2	2½
2. Rick Case	1925	Minot	W9	W6	D1	2½
3. Michael Sprague	1862	Minot	W4	L1	W8	2
4. Dale Sailer	1392	Bismarck	L3	W10	W7	2
5. Silvano Bentzel	1286	Minot	W7	L8	W6	2
6. Richard Herr	1948	Wishek	W8	L2	L5	1
7. LaMoyné Splichal	1661	Dickinson	L5	W9	L4	1
8. Marv Johnson	1592	Minot	L6	W5	L3	1
9. Steve Lengenfelder	1541	Bismarck	L2	L7	W10	1
10. Lee Feldmann	1641	Minot	L1	L4	L9	0

Awards: Mike Sailer & Rick Case shared 1st place, each won \$17.50. Silvano Bentzel & Dale Sailer were the Under 1300 winners. each won \$5.00.

Fargo International Cyclone
June 27, 1987

TD: Somner Sorenson

Player	Ring	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total	T-B
1. Asnawi Raali	2134	W13	W5	W3	3	5
2. Laszlo Ficsor	2050	W12	W8	W4	3	5
3. Knute Sorenson	2029	W11	W9	L1	2	7
4. Jeff Dahl	2060	W16	W10	L2	2	5
5. Don Sjerven	1958	W15	L1	W6	2	6
6. Ed Conway	1851	W17	W7	L5	2	5
7. Tim Raderaacher	2342	W14	L6	W12	2	4
8. Reuben Lubka	1695	W20	L2	W13	2	4
9. Ken Goebel	1863	W18	L3	W14	2	3
10. Mike Sailer	1776	W19	L4	W15	2	3
11. Arthur Bayley	1589	L3	W19	W18	2	2
12. Dan Storkamp	1599	L2	W17	L7	1	6
13. Dave Kuhns	1812	L1	W18	L8	1	5
14. Mark Menzie	1685	L7	W16	L9	1	5
15. Orhan Erdem	1592	L5	W20	L10	1	4
16. Joseph Gagner	1494	L4	L14	W19	1	3
17. Dan Rasnussen	1203	L6	L12	W20	1	3
18. Kyro Lantsberger	1252	L9	L13	L11	0	5
19. Russ Hersrud	1003	L10	L11	L16	0	5
20. John Matheson	UNR	L8	L15	L17	0	4

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46th Annual "International" Match
June 28, 1987

TD: Somner Sorenson

Twin Cities		"Rest of the World"	
1. Ed Zelkind	1	0	Jack Yoos
2. Tim Raderaacher	1	0	Asnawi Raali
3. Eugene Kerkay	0	1	Steve Turao
4. Mike Zelkind	1	0	Roy Truelson
5. Nels Truelson	1	0	Knute Sorenson
6. Ron Elmqvist	1	0	Jeff Dahl
7. Laszlo Ficsor	1/2	1/2	Somner Sorenson
8. Don Sjerven	1	0	Ken Goebel
9. Ed Conway	1	0	Jeff Prentiss
10. Erwin Heisler	1	0	Mike Sailer
11. Natalya Zelkind	1/2	1/2	Reuben Lubka
12. Dave Kuhns	1	0	Mark Menzie
13. Dan Storkamp	1	0	Alan Phipps
14. Boris Zelkind	0	1	Orhan Erdem
15. Larisa Zelkind	0	1	Gerry Morris
16. Jason Heisler	0	1	Joseph Gagner
17. Nicholas Elmqvist	1	0	Kyro Lantsberger
18. A. J. Kuhns	0	1	John Bailey
	--	--	
	18	6	

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TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

Apr. 9-10 ND Scholastic
Doublewood Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND
(See ad, elsewhere in this issue.)

April 16-17 MON-DAK OPEN
Sydney High School Cafeteria, 1012 4th Ave. SE, Sydney, Montana
5SS, Reg: 8-9 AM, Sat., Rds: 9:30-2-7/9-2 (All times Mountain)
TC: 40/2 - 20/1, NS, WC, NC, EF: \$8 by 4/9, \$10 at site. USCF req.
Prizes as per entries. Entries to: David McDonald, ZSydney High
School Chess Club, Box 265, Sydney, Montana 59270 (406-482-3243)

April 16-17 1988 Sioux Falls Open, 5SS, 40/2, Women and Children's Health
Resource Center, 1000 S. Lucid, Sioux Falls, SD. EF: \$15 in advance, \$20 at
site, \$5G, 150-100, other prizes as entries permit. SDCA memb. req. other
states OK. Reg \$4.45 a.m., Rds 9-2-7, 9-2. Ent: Jeff Barth, 4701 Blueridge
Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57103 (605) 371-0154.
Grand Prix Points Available: 5

Apr. 23-24 15th ND CLOSED
Doublewood Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND
(See ad, elsewhere in this issue.)

Featuring IGM Bisguier

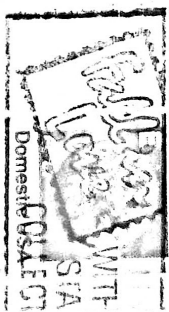
APR 29 SIMUL BY IGM ARTHUR BISQUIER, at site
of St. Cloud Open (See Below), EF \$10
per board. Starts 7:00pm.

APR 30- MAY 1 4th ANNUAL ST. CLOUD OPEN
(IGM Bisguier will play in Open!)
5SS; TL 45/2, 15/30 (Rds 1-3), 40/2,
15/30 (Rds 4-5); EF \$18 if rec'd by
4/15, \$20 at site; PZ(GTD): 1st \$150,
2nd \$100, 3rd \$50, Expert \$100+trophy,
A \$90+trophy, B \$75+trophy, C \$70+
trophy, D-E \$45+trophy, Top college
student \$30+trophy, Top high school
student \$30+trophy, Upset \$10+trophy.
REG 8:30-9:00am, RDS 10-2:30-7 Sat,
12-5:30 Sun. SITE: Atwood Memorial
Center, 1st Ave. & 6th St. S., St.
Cloud. ADV ENT: Jeff Prentiss, 580
Adams Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060 (507)
451-2793. EXURBAN QUALIFIER.

MAY 7 DRAGON VARIATIONS
4SS; TL 30/1, 20/30, Sudden death;
EF \$8; PZ b/entries. REG 9-9:45, RDS:
10-1-4-7. SITE: 227 Comstock Union,
Moorhead State Univ, Moorhead. USCF &
MSCA req'd. 4-pt bye avail rds 1-3.
W LS EXURBAN QUALIFIER.

JUNE 4-5 1988 SINCLAIR LEWIS OPEN
5SS; TL All/130; EF \$15 (Free if joining
USCF 1st time); PZ(b/20): 1st \$65+trophy,
2nd \$60, U1850 \$45, U1650/Unr \$45, U1450
\$30, MSCA memb to top non-member. REG
8:30-9:30; RDS 10-2:30-7 Sat, 10-3 Sun.
SITE: Main Hall City Hall, 405 Sinclair
Lewis Ave, Sauk Centre. ADV ENT: S. W.
Pederson, 531 S. 6th St., Sauk Centre, MN
56378 612-352-3419. Hotel/rideshare info
sent to adv ent (incl phone). Bets taken
on whether Tim Petermeyer will play. NS W

NDCA NEWS
@ Joseph Gagner
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Bismarck, ND 58504



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JOHN H LEITEL

ALMONT ND 58520

